



Quarterly Gazette  
of the  
Howard Composite Squadron  
Civil Air Patrol

R. E. Terry

PAO



## Ground Team Shows a Sustained Effort

Our unit continues to establish a clear track record in ground team development and has recently been assigned a corporate van for use in these activities. There are many more SAR training opportunities to come this year, but already we have participated in several.

First of the season was a Group 4 FTX at Indian Springs Wildlife Area on 6 Feb 99, attended by CSM S. Eberhardt, C/MSGT B. Terry, and the van. Next was our own Howard Squadron FTX at the Patapsco State Park Avalon Area on 27 Feb 99. While the cadet presence was a bit thin, the senior members successfully carried out several basic skills elements. A remarkable agreement between paced distance estimates and GPS measurements was noted. By the time of the Wing SAREX at Easton on 20 Mar 99, we were able to mobilize a substantial team of trainees and members. All the tasks set for us were performed successfully. We found two ELT beacons, even though the second was weak from a failing battery. We quickly located our target on the simulated ramp check. On the line search, LtC Ron Whitehead was the first to spot our targets and win credit for a "quasi-find".

Recently Qualified Ground Team Members (GTM) as a result of the last 18 months of training effort now include 1Lt Jay Kelley (also a qualified GSC), 2Lt R. Terry, C/2Lt N. Fortner, C/FO M. DeCaria, C/MSGT J. Flagg, C/MSGT B. Terry, and C/A1 J. Eberhardt. They are lead by experienced senior members LTC K. Redman, MAJ E. Redman, and S/M R. Wiseman. S/M Wiseman was recently awarded the relatively rare SAR TECH 1 rating in a NASAR sanctioned test that included night orienteering. Well done, Bob!

## Promotions

Cadets: To C/A — L. Harding, C Wertz, and M. Mathews; to C/A1 — A. Fenner, S Haack, and B. Maxfield; to C/SGT — D. Staciak; to C/MSGT — J. Flagg; to C/MAJ — M. Wilcox.

## Awards

RED SERVICE RIBBONS to Elza Redman (w/ 3 clasps), Heather Sines, Sarah Sines, Brendon Terry, Ron Whitehead, Mathew Wilcox (w/ 1 clasp), Joshua Abramowitz, Mark DeCaria, Stephen DeVito, Monica Fortner, Neil Fortner, Jeffrey Flagg, and Johannes Schmitz (w/ 20 yr device).

